PROJECT OUTLINE

1. **Name of the Country:**
   Socialist Republic of Vietnam

2. **Title of the Project:**
   The Project on Support for Farmers’ Income Improvement through the Revitalization of Integrated Agriculture in Hilly Areas

3. **Background and Necessity of the Project:**
   The population in Son La Province is approximately 1,150,000, with the 80 percent of people in the province are living in hilly and mountains areas, which are behind in the development of agriculture. The Vietnamese government established Tay Bac University (TBU) in Son La Province in 2001 for contributing to the development of human resource which is necessary to develop the mountainous regions. JICA has conducted technical cooperation project over the four years from 2011 for the strengthening capacity of teachers and staff in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) of the university.

   Considering the obtained results of the research as dissemination activities (outreach program), FAF is ideal organization which will work on the improvement of a rural livelihood and living standard in collaboration with the People’s Committee of Son La Province (PPC Son La). It is imperative to improve the living and livelihoods with the increase of income, particularly in rural hilly areas, through building a distribution and marketing system that meets the distinctive production technology and consumer needs with value added agricultural products.

   Meantime, Kasama City, Ibaraki prefecture of Japan where NPO, International Farmers Participation Technical Net-work (IFPaT) having succeeded the activity of the above mentioned JICA technical cooperation project is resided as a working base, is tackling the regional revitalization projects by them own in Japan. Kasama City, which is advancing internationalization, has made a plan to assist the rural development project of TBU and PPC Son La as having a similar location of hilly and mountainous area as Kasama City for
the overseas location.

Thus, it is estimated as highly possible that the collaboration between TBU and IFPaT under the framework of JICA Partnership Program will improve the living and livelihoods of local people in project target areas of Son La Province with the increase of income and contribute to the globalization of both Kasama City and Son La Province.

4. **Project Purpose:**

   To improve the living standard and livelihood in rural areas of Son La Province through building a value added farming by utilizing the local agricultural resources and supporting the promotion of distinctive agricultural product and its marketing system.

5. **Target Area:**

   Tham village, Chieng Sinh commune, Son La City
   Tay Hung village, Muoi Noi commune, Thuan Chau District

6. **Target Group:**

   Farmers in Tham Village (86 household) and Tay Hung Village (65 household)
   Staff of TBU

7. **Expected Outcomes and Activities:**

   **Outcomes:**
   1. The villagers understand the necessity of rural livelihood improvement.
   2. A production base with well irrigation system is introduced and the cultivation in dry season is implemented.
   3. The villagers will produce agricultural products with added value that takes into account the needs of the consumers.
   4. Marketing and selling system for processing agricultural products and branding the products is improved.

   **Activities:**
   1. Workshops to deepen the recognition on the Project concept (more than two times)
2. Drilling well (minimum of two units)
3. Water users’ group is formed (more than one group)
3. Simplified cultivation-facility of horticulture is introduced (more than 10 farmers)
4. Making compost using crop residues is carried out (one group or more)
5. Organic farming is introduced to farmers (Be implemented by 2 farmers' groups or more)
6. Technology of less pesticide use is implemented (2 farmers' groups or more)
7. Distinctive agricultural products are selected (two or more)
8. The technology on processing of value added agricultural products is implemented
9. A shop of farm products is installed (more than one place)

8. **Project Term:**

From January, 2016 to March, 2018

9. **Supporting Organizations:**

- Japanese side: Kasama City office
- Vietnamese side: People’s Committee of Son La Province

10. **Implementing Organizations**

- Japanese side: NPO-International Farmers Participation Technical Net-Work (IFPaT)
- Vietnamese side: Tay Bac University (TBU)

11. **Main Activities:**

1. Capacity development of farmers
   (1) Son La Province and Kasama City join in seminars and workshops, and exchange of opinions among the farmers for the project of the rural development. (And the farmers gain the skill and knowledge of improved farming by the training courses.)
   (2) Training courses in Japan for farmers, TBU and Son La Province Agricultural Extension Center.
   (3) Seminars and training courses in Vietnam for farmers, TBU and Son La Province Agricultural Extension Center.

2. Irrigation plan will be created by the farmers' group
   (1) Making the Plans for maintenance of irrigation facilities by farmers' group
(2) Construction of irrigation facilities by farmer’s participation
(3) Implementation of vegetable cultivation by using of well irrigation system

3. Understanding on the adaptability of protected cultivation technology
   (1) Farmers’ training for the cultivation technology used simple facility in rainy season
       (Betagake method, etc.)
   (2) Give the practices to farmers’ groups on protected cultivation technology using facilities
   (3) Establish the system of high-quality and safe production by the group farmers
   (4) Discussion on making compost by waste of crops and technical training to farmers
   (5) Discussion on less use pesticide in cultivation and technical training to farmers
   (6) Farmers' groups practice on high-quality and safe production systems

4. Training and practice of value-added agricultural products
   (1) Introduction of agro-processing
   (2) Planning of the branding for agricultural products
   (3) Searching a way of efficient sales method including direct sale which is suitable for selling value added agricultural products